

Clonal neoantigens elicit T cell immunoreactivity and sensitivity to immune checkpoint blockade - DTU Orbit (08/11/2017)

Clonal neoantigens elicit T cell immunoreactivity and sensitivity to immune checkpoint blockade

As tumors grow, they acquire mutations, some of which create neoantigens that influence the response of patients to immune checkpoint inhibitors. We explored the impact of neoantigen intratumor heterogeneity (ITH) on antitumor immunity. Through integrated analysis of ITH and neoantigen burden, we demonstrate a relationship between clonal neoantigen burden and overall survival in primary lung adenocarcinomas. CD8(+)tumor-infiltrating lymphocytes reactive to clonal neoantigens were identified in early-stage non-small cell lung cancer and expressed high levels of PD-1. Sensitivity to PD-1 and CTLA-4 blockade in patients with advanced NSCLC and melanoma was enhanced in tumors enriched for clonal neoantigens. T cells recognizing clonal neoantigens were detectable in patients with durable clinical benefit. Cytotoxic chemotherapy-induced subclonal neoantigens, contributing to an increased mutational load, were enriched in certain poor responders. These data suggest that neoantigen heterogeneity may influence immune surveillance and support therapeutic developments targeting clonal neoantigens.

General information

State: Published

Organisations: National Veterinary Institute, Section for Immunology and Vaccinology

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Pages: 1463-1469

Publication date: 2016

Main Research Area: Technical/natural sciences

Publication information

Journal: Science

Volume: 351

Issue number: 6280

ISSN (Print): 0036-8075

Ratings:

BFI (2017): BFI-level 2

Web of Science (2017): Indexed yes

BFI (2016): BFI-level 2

Scopus rating (2016): CiteScore 14.39 SJR 13.535 SNIP 7.688

Web of Science (2016): Indexed yes

BFI (2015): BFI-level 2

Scopus rating (2015): SJR 12.906 SNIP 7.826 CiteScore 13.12

Web of Science (2015): Indexed yes

BFI (2014): BFI-level 2

Scopus rating (2014): SJR 12.012 SNIP 8.269 CiteScore 12.68

Web of Science (2014): Indexed yes

BFI (2013): BFI-level 2

Scopus rating (2013): SJR 12.305 SNIP 7.87 CiteScore 12.43

ISI indexed (2013): ISI indexed yes

Web of Science (2013): Indexed yes

BFI (2012): BFI-level 2

Scopus rating (2012): SJR 13.159 SNIP 8.124 CiteScore 12.39

ISI indexed (2012): ISI indexed yes

Web of Science (2012): Indexed yes

BFI (2011): BFI-level 2

Scopus rating (2011): SJR 14.049 SNIP 8.309 CiteScore 11.97

ISI indexed (2011): ISI indexed yes

Web of Science (2011): Indexed yes

BFI (2010): BFI-level 2

Scopus rating (2010): SJR 13.216 SNIP 7.791

Web of Science (2010): Indexed yes

BFI (2009): BFI-level 2

Scopus rating (2009): SJR 11.644 SNIP 7.033

Web of Science (2009): Indexed yes

BFI (2008): BFI-level 2

Scopus rating (2008): SJR 10.996 SNIP 6.09

Web of Science (2008): Indexed yes

Scopus rating (2007): SJR 9.871 SNIP 6.021

Web of Science (2007): Indexed yes

Scopus rating (2006): SJR 10.337 SNIP 6.052

Web of Science (2006): Indexed yes

Scopus rating (2005): SJR 10.834 SNIP 6.581

Web of Science (2005): Indexed yes

Scopus rating (2004): SJR 11.249 SNIP 7.255

Web of Science (2004): Indexed yes

Scopus rating (2003): SJR 11.106 SNIP 7.371

Web of Science (2003): Indexed yes

Scopus rating (2002): SJR 10.5 SNIP 7.071

Web of Science (2002): Indexed yes

Scopus rating (2001): SJR 10.853 SNIP 6.907

Web of Science (2001): Indexed yes

Scopus rating (2000): SJR 12.983 SNIP 7.088

Web of Science (2000): Indexed yes

Scopus rating (1999): SJR 16.117 SNIP 7.073

Original language: English

DOIs:

[10.1126/science.aaf1490](https://doi.org/10.1126/science.aaf1490)

Source: FindIt

Source-ID: 2298450552

Publication: Research - peer-review › Journal article – Annual report year: 2016